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A PIED-BILLED GREBE NEST AND COMMON MOORHEN BROOD PLATFORM NEAR REELFOOT LAKE, TENNESSEE

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INTRODUCTION

Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*) and Common Moorhens (*Gallinula chloropus*) are wetland-dependent birds that construct nests in dense emergent or aquatic vegetation near open water (Bannor and Kiviat 2002, Muller and Storer 1999). Both species were considered common in Reelfoot Lake giant cutgrass (*Zizaniopsis miliacea*) marshes in the past (Crook 1935, Ganier 1933; Pickering 1937, 1941; Simpson 1939, Spofford 1941, Whittemore 1937). Submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) may also have been important because Common Moorhens fed on SAV, primarily coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*). Similarly, Pied-billed Grebes were seen more frequently in areas with dense SAV (Crook 1935, Simpson 1939), possibly because of increased prey abundance or decreased motorized boat traffic.

Artificial water-level stabilization has allowed marshes on Reelfoot Lake to succeed to dense stands of the shrub swamp loosestrife (*Decodon verticillatus*). Populations of SAV fluctuate with grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) populations, which were introduced in the 1980s (Henson 1990). Boat traffic has increased on many parts of Reelfoot Lake since the stabilization of water levels and the decline of SAV populations. It is unclear if these factors have affected Pied-billed Grebes or Common Moorhens on Reelfoot Lake. Since these changes have occurred, bird watchers have reported Pied-billed Grebes on Reelfoot Lake, and at least two

Common Moorhen nests have been found there (Pitts 1985, Nicholson 1997), but their numbers are fewer than when giant cutgrass dominated Reelfoot Lake marshes (Winstead 2004). Pied-billed Grebes are now thought to be a "rare summer resident" with a stable population in Tennessee (Nicholson 1997), and Common Moorhens are considered "deemed in need of management" by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (T.D.E.C. 2004).

We investigated the current status of Pied-billed Grebes and Common Moorhens on Reelfoot Lake and Black Bayou Waterfowl Refuge as part of a larger study of breeding bird and vegetation communities (Winstead and King 2006 a,b). Here we report the results of Pied-billed Grebe and Common Moorhen surveys and nest searches.

STUDY AREA

Reelfoot Lake and Black Bayou Waterfowl Refuge are located in Lake and Obion Counties within the Lower Mississippi River Alluvial Valley in northwest Tennessee. Water levels on the 6,300 ha Reelfoot Lake fluctuated historically (Davis 1937), but levels have been artificially stabilized since 1942 (Henson 1990). Swamp loosestrife marshes interspersed with baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and maple (*Acer* spp.) saplings occupy some shorelines with limited amounts of giant cutgrass, cow lily (*Nuphar luteum*), and denseflower knotweed (*Polygonum densiflorum*) often growing along open-water edges (Winstead 2004).

The study marsh on Black Bayou was 21 ha. Black Bayou water levels were allowed to fluctuate, with lower levels during the end of the growing season. The Black Bayou study marsh was a giant cutgrass hemi-marsh, a marsh with an equal interspersion of open water and vegetation, although there were some small patches of open water, black willows (*Salix nigra*) and American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*). Reelfoot Lake and Black Bayou were chosen as study sites because of the perceived decline of some bird species (Nicholson 1997) and documented vegetation changes that have occurred on Reelfoot Lake since water-level stabilization. Furthermore, the vegetation composition on Black Bayou is similar to past communities on Reelfoot Lake.

METHODS

We conducted call-broadcast surveys for secretive marshbirds (Conway 2002) and searched for their nests on Reelfoot Lake and Black Bayou during May-July 2003. Surveys consisted of five-minute passive and nine-minute call-broadcast phases. The call-broadcast phase included 30 seconds of calls, followed by 30 seconds of silence for each target species, which included Least Bittern, Sora, Virginia Rail, King Rail, American Bittern, Common Moorhen, Purple Gallinule, American Coot, and Pied-billed Grebe. We located 45 call-broadcast survey stations throughout Upper Blue, Buck and Blue basins on Reelfoot Lake and conducted 135 call-broadcast surveys at these stations. Wading through Reelfoot Lake marshes to search for nests was impractical because of deep, unconsolidated substrates and the amount of area to cover; therefore most open-water edges of shoreline with emergent marsh on Reelfoot Lake (approximately 18 km) were searched for nests from a GO-DEVIL boat. The use of a GO-DEVIL engine allowed access to almost every part of Reelfoot Lake, including many areas inaccessible to most boats. We located 3 call-broadcast survey stations covering the 21 ha study marsh on Black Bayou, and conducted 9

call broadcast surveys there. We waded through the entire marsh to search for nests on Black Bayou.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We spent hundreds of hours assessing the breeding bird and plant communities on Reelfoot Lake and Black Bayou (Winstead 2004), and we are confident we have thoroughly surveyed the secretive marshbird community. No Pied-billed Grebes were observed on Reelfoot Lake. One Common Moorhen was observed on Reelfoot Lake during one of the 135 call-broadcast surveys and another was observed while traversing the lake between survey stations. There were 11 Pied-billed Grebe and four Common Moorhen encounters during six and three call-broadcast surveys, respectively, of nine call-broadcast surveys conducted on Black Bayou. Nest searching revealed one Pied-billed Grebe nest and one Common Moorhen brood platform on Black Bayou. Both were in Lake County, Tennessee. No nests were found on Reelfoot Lake.

The Pied-billed Grebe nest was found 31 May 2003 surrounded by giant cutgrass interspersed with equal amounts of open water. The six eggs were partially covered with nest material, which is commonly done when adults leave the nest (Muller and Storer 1999). The nest was floating on the water surface and was composed of decaying giant cutgrass inflorescence stalks and leaves (many heavily frayed), mud, and at least one American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*) seedpod. The nest was anchored to several giant cutgrass plants, some of which were clipped at the water surface. One giant cutgrass plant was growing from the center of the nest, adjacent to the eggs. New material was added to the nest by the second visit on 6 June. Water depth at the nest was 35 cm, and vegetation height was 1.5 m. The nest was 15 m from the nearest open-water pool > 3 m diameter. The eggs are thought to have successfully hatched between visits on 6 June and 20 June because the nest was abandoned on the last visit, and several very small shell fragments were present. After eggs hatch, adults break up shells and either eat them or dispose of them within the nest (Muller and Storer 1999). If the eggs were predated, they would likely be missing or the shells would not have been broken so finely.

The Common Moorhen brood platform was found 31 May 2003 surrounded by giant cutgrass interspersed with equal amounts of open water and a few black willow (*Salix nigra*) saplings. The platform was made of giant cutgrass and anchored to a black willow sapling. A ramp was present and made by bending adjacent giant cutgrass plants to the water surface from the platform. It was identified as a Common Moorhen brood platform because Common Moorhens build ramps on nests and platforms (Bannor and Kiviat 2002), and a Common Moorhen juvenal plumage feather was found on the ramp. It was not believed to be a nest because a nest cup was not present and Common Moorhen nests are often constructed of dead vegetation (Bannor and Kiviat 2002). This platform's construction material was still green. If this was a nest, a cup should have been present and the nest material would have dried during the time needed for chicks to attain juvenal plumage.

Evidence was found of Common Moorhens breeding on Reelfoot Lake in the 1980s under presumably similar vegetation conditions (Pitts 1985, Nicholson 1997). It is possible that our nest searching methods prevented us from finding all nests.

However, throughout the 2003 breeding season Pied-billed Grebes and Common Moorhens were frequently detected during call-broadcast surveys on Black Bayou; no Pied-billed Grebes and only two Common Moorhens were detected on Reelfoot Lake. Common Moorhens prefer sites with grass-like emergent vegetation and dense SAV (Bannor and Kiviat 2002), and Pied-billed Grebe nests may be destroyed by waves created by motorized boat traffic (Muller and Storer 1999). The replacement of giant cutgrass by the shrub swamp loosestrife, the reduction of SAV, and an increase in motorized boat traffic may have made Reelfoot Lake less suitable for these species than in the past.

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The Migrant 76 (3): 89-90, 2005

FIRST WINTER RECORD OF BOBOLINK IN TENNESSEE

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During the Cookeville Christmas Bird Count (CBC) 20 December 2003, an adult basic-plumaged Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) was observed in Putnam County. The bird was observed for approximately 30 minutes in a marshy area situated in the southwest corner of a large agricultural field adjacent to the access road to Ironwood Golf Course, located 6-7 km northwest of Cookeville, Putnam County. The marshy area consisted of a small (c. 0.4 ha), shallow (< 1 m deep) body of water surrounded by an overgrown fringe consisting of mixed grasses, sedges, and other herbaceous species. The marsh was bordered on one side by a small brook overgrown with willow (*Salix* spp.), alder (*Alnus* spp.), and other woody perennials; on another side by the paved access road; and on two sides by the agricultural field. Weather conditions during the observation of the Bobolink included clear skies, fairly calm wind (c. Beaufort 0-1), and temperature in the range of 20-25° F.

The Bobolink was first observed by Kenneth L. Morgan, who called it to the attention of the other two party members, Ginger K. Ensor and Michael J. Hawkins. Ensor kept track of the bird's movement from an elevated position on the road, while Hawkins and Morgan pursued the bird around opposite sides of the small marsh. Ensor then joined the effort to view the bird. The Bobolink never left the marshy area, but it was quite adept at concealing itself in the knee-to-waist high vegetation. Most of the observations occurred as the bird flew from one part of the marsh to another, as it usually landed out of sight in vegetation. Features observed during these flights included the overall buffy yellow color, especially on the breast; dark streaking on the back and sides; dark crown stripes; dark remiges; and dark, short, pointed, ragged rectrices.

At one point Hawkins obtained a very good 2-minute view of the bird from a distance of 2-3 m as it moved through the grass. Hawkins observed these features: a marked delineation between the streaks on the back and the unstreaked, buffy yellow on the nape, pale lores, dark eyeline, pinkish mandibles and tarsi, and markedly pointed or "ragged" rectrices.

After concluding these lengthy efforts to observe this bird, the party members compared observations and consulted various field guides, including Sibley (2000), Peterson (1985), and Scott (1988). Hawkins, having had the best look at the bird, felt confident it was a basic-plumaged Bobolink. Morgan and Ensor were not as certain of the identification, believing that there might be other possibilities— in particular, Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*)—and that corroboration would be needed on a later date. The party members left the site, reported the Bobolink, and submitted a rare bird documentation form at the compilation that evening.

On 21 December 2003, Hawkins returned to the marsh accompanied by Stephen J. Stedman, Cookeville CBC compiler. At approximately 0800 CST the bird was relocated, photographed (identifiable but low quality) by Hawkins, and positively identified as an adult basic-plumaged Bobolink. On 25 December 2003 S. J. Stedman returned to the site with Barbara H. Stedman, and both observers viewed the Bobolink; the former was able to obtain clearly identifiable images of the Bobolink (Stedman 2004). The last known sighting of the Bobolink occurred 28 December 2003 when Douglas A. Downs (pers. com.) observed it at the same site. Searches on several dates during January 2004 (S. J. Stedman pers. com.) produced no further Bobolink observations.

A review of pertinent literature revealed no previous winter record of Bobolink in Tennessee (Robinson 1990; winter season reports 1990-2003 in *Migrant*). In confirmation of this finding, a search of Tennessee CBC data at the national CBC website revealed no CBC records of Bobolink for Tennessee.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Stephen J. Stedman for assistance in the preparation of this paper.

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The Migrant 76 (3): 91-93, 2005

REPORT OF THE TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

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This report summarizes the actions taken by the Tennessee Bird Records Committee (TBRC) of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) from the winter 2003 through 2004 timeframe. Some records were voted on by different individuals, as there is typically at least one member rotating off every year, with someone else coming on. Committee members and alternate that voted on these records were: Jay Desgrollier, K Dean Edwards, John Henderson, Rick Knight, Nell Moore (Alternate), Dick Preston, Rob Peeples, Chris Sloan, and Michael Todd (Secretary).

Acceptance criteria is as follows: A species is placed on the confirmed list based upon either (a) extant, verified specimen, photograph, or sound recording, each accompanied by written details, or (b) satisfactory written documentation of three independent sight records, or three independent observers of the same bird. Without these levels of documentation a species is placed on the Provisional list based on one or two sight records with satisfactory written documentation. Acceptance to either list requires either a unanimous vote in favor, or at most with one dissenting vote, out of 6 votes cast.

This report contains ten records, nine of which were accepted, and publication of one past record.

RECORDS ACCEPTED

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*): Written documentation by Ken Leggett and Glen Criswell of a bird on 7 June 2004, at White Lake Refuge in Dyer Co.

Vote: 5-1

This species is on the Official State List already, listed as casual with this being the 4th record that the TBRC has reviewed and passed. There are other records which haven't been submitted.

Great White Heron (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*): Written documentation and photographs by Steven J. Stedman of a bird present from 21 September to 11 November 2002 in both DeKalb and Putnam Co.

Vote: 6-0

This is the 2nd record for this Great Blue Heron subspecies for Tennessee. This subspecies is very rare north of Florida.

White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*): Written documentation and photograph from Ron Hoff and Dollyann Myers of fourteen of these birds on 5 June 2003 along the Great River Rd. in Dyer Co.

Vote: 6-0

This species is already on the Official State List, listed as accidental. This is the 3rd record that has been reviewed and passed by the TBRC. There are other records which haven't been submitted.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*): Written documentation and photographs of two adults seen by Judy C. Fuson and Carol D. Williams, on 8 May 2004 in DeKalb Co.

Vote: 6-0

This species is regular in west Tennessee, but quite rare towards the eastern end of the State

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginia*): Written documentation by Terry Witt of a juvenile bird seen on 4 October 2004 at Britton Ford in Henry Co.

Vote: 5-1

This species is already on the Official State List as accidental. This is only the 2nd record for Tennessee.

Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*): Written documentation by Michael Todd of an adult bird seen on 24 May 2004 along the Great River Rd in Dyer Co.

Vote: 6-0

This is the 1st record of this species for Tennessee. It is placed in the Provisional section of the State List as it was a single observer observation.

Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*): Written documentation by Kevin Calhoon of an adult on 17 September 2004 at Nickajack Dam in Marion Co.

Vote: 6-0

This species is on the Official State List, and is accidental in the State.

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*): Written documentation of an adult male seen by Jo and Scott McMillan on 29 October 2003 in Louisville, Tennessee; Blount Co.

Vote: 6-0

This species is on the Official State List, listed as casual. This is the 4th record for this species in Tennessee.

Townsend's Warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*): Written documentation by Rick Knight of an adult male seen on 13 January 2004 at Wilbur Lake in Carter Co.

Vote: 5-0

This species is on the Official State List, listed as accidental. This is the 3rd sight record of this species for Tennessee, which moves it off the Provisional list.

In addition, it has been brought to my attention that we have at least one record on the books that apparently never made it into *The Migrant*. The following record thus hasn't shown up in record-form in *The Migrant*:

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*): Written documentation of a female seen by Jeff Wilson and Mark Greene, on 3-4 May 1996, at the EARTH Complex, Shelby Co.

Vote: 6-0

This is the 1st record of this species in the State, with it being placed in the Provisional Category.

RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*): written documentation of an adult by Virginia Reynolds and Linda Zimpel on 9 September 2004 at Ensley Bottoms in Shelby Co.

Vote: 0-6

There is one previous record of this species for Tennessee. This record wasn't accepted because all similar species couldn't be eliminated from the descriptions.

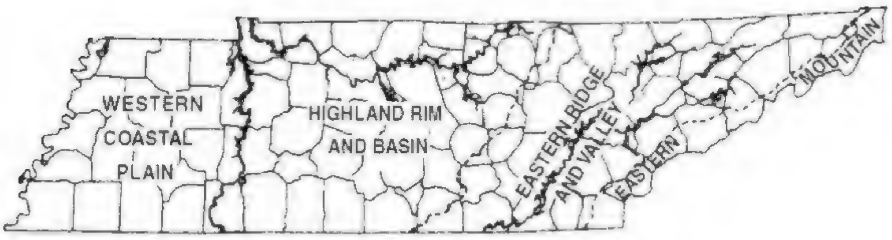
The list of observers who submitted documentation and/or photographs to the Committee for these records: Ken Leggett, Glen Criswell, Steven Stedman, Ron Hoff, Judy Fuson, Carol Williams, Terry Witt, Michael Todd, Kevin Calhoon, Jo McMillan, Rick Knight, Jeff Wilson, Mark Greene, Virginia Reynolds, and Linda Zempel.

If you have questions about the status of a particular species, the Official List of Tennessee Birds can be found in the Tennessee Bird Records Committee section of the Tennessee Ornithological Society website (www.tnbirds.org). This list was designed as a guide to the status and distribution of the avifauna of Tennessee. A rare bird reporting form can be downloaded from the same section of the TOS website.

The Migrant 76 (3): 94-104, 2005

THE SPRING SEASON

RICHARD L. KNIGHT, Editor



1 MARCH - 31 MAY 2005

This was a dry, cool spring for most of the state. The majority of observers declared the migration to have been "fairly typical" or "about average." Some trends were apparent. Reports of late waterfowl were numerous, especially from West Tennessee. Raptors received little mention, although a Golden Eagle in southern Middle Tennessee, a new Bald Eagle nest site in upper East Tennessee, and reports of Merlins and Peregrine Falcons from three regions apiece were noteworthy. Shorebird accounts were generally limited to reports of the less common migrants. Expansion of the Eurasian Collared-Dove population continues, as should monitoring of it. The passerine flight appeared to be near normal for recent years, although early dates were set for several species in Middle Tennessee. Alder Flycatchers were noted in all four regions, perhaps for the first time ever. A Bell's Vireo returned to Lake County. Fish Crows at two sites in the Ridge and Valley add to the small number of reports there. Bewick's Wrens in Sumner and Rutherford counties indicate that the species is still barely holding on in that region. Rarities reported include Thayer's and Iceland gulls, Harris's Sparrow, and Yellow-headed Blackbird in West Tennessee, Pacific Loon, Brant, and Whooping Crane in Middle Tennessee, plus Purple Gallinule and Western Kingbird in East Tennessee.

Standard Abbreviations

ad - adult
Co - County
Cr. - Creek
ers - earliest reported sighting
et al. - and others
im - immature
L - Lake
lrs - latest reported sighting
max - maximum count
m.ob. - many observers
Mtn - Mountain
NP - National Park
NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
R - River
SP - State Park
WMA - Wildlife Management Area
yg - young

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION — Rainfall amounts for the region were quite low this spring. This year's migration was fairly typical. Among the most notable sightings of the period were a Harris's Sparrow and a Yellow-headed Blackbird, both seen by many observers at Shelby Farms. Alder and Willow flycatchers were reported from two locations. Western Kingbirds and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers nested again in Shelby County.

Goose - Falcon: **Ross's Goose**: 5 Mar (1) Lake Co (JRW); 21 Apr (1) EARTH Complex (CHB, LVZ). **Gadwall**: 25 May (1) Chickasaw NWR (JRW), lrs. **American Wigeon**: 23 May (2) White Lake WMA (WGC), lrs. **Northern Shoveler**: 29 May (1) White Lake WMA (WGC), lrs. **Northern Pintail**: 14 May (2) White Lake WMA (JRW), lrs. **Green-winged Teal**: 29 May (1) White Lake WMA (WGC), lrs. **Ring-necked Duck**: 25 May (1) Chickasaw NWR (JRW), lrs. **Greater Scaup**: 12 Mar (1) Shelby Farms (WRP); 19 Mar (25) EARTH Complex (JRW). **Lesser Scaup**: 27 May (1) Lake Co (WGC, KCL), lrs. **Bufflehead**: 15 Apr (1) White Lake WMA (WGC), lrs. **Common Goldeneye**: 2 Apr (2) Lauderdale Co (JRW), lrs. **Red-breasted Merganser**: 15 Apr (1) Dyer Co (WGC), lrs. **Horned Grebe**: 3 Apr (1) Lake Co (WGC), lrs. **American White Pelican**: 3 Apr (300) Dyer Co (JRW), max. **Anhinga**: 7 May (1) Eagle Lake WMA, Shelby Co (JRW); 18/24 May (1) White Lake WMA (WGC, KCL). **American Bittern**: 21 Apr - 9 May (1) White Lake WMA (WGC, KCL); 29 Apr - 3 May (1) EARTH Complex (JRW et al.); 4 May (1) Black Bayou (KCL). **Least Bittern**: 30 May (2) White Lake WMA (BL, KCL). **Osprey**: 6 Mar (4) Lake Co (JRW), ers. **Northern Harrier**: 1 May (1) Shelby Farms (George Payne et al.), lrs. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: 28 May (1) EARTH Complex (JRW). **Merlin**: 3 Apr (1) Dyer Co (JRW).

Moorhen - Gull: **Common Moorhen**: 18 Apr (1) Shelby Farms (VBR). **American Coot**: 29 May (1) White Lake WMA (WGC), lrs. **Sandhill Crane**: 14 May (1) Ensley (JRW, Ken Allen). **Black-bellied Plover**: 15 May (14) Dyer Co (WGC, BL, KCL), max. **American Golden-Plover**: 2 Apr (790) Lauderdale Co (JRW), max. **Semipalmated Plover**: 9 May (53) Dyer Co (WGC, KCL), max. **Solitary Sandpiper**: 19 Mar (1) Eagle Lake WMA, Shelby Co (JRW), ers. **Willet**: 27 Apr - 3 May (1) EARTH Complex (JRW/TOS); 30 Apr (2) Black Bayou (WGC). **Upland Sandpiper**: 26 Mar (2) Tipton Co (JRW); 27 Mar (3) Shelby Farms (JRW); 2 Apr (1) Lake Co (WGC). **Whimbrel**: 24 May (3) Chickasaw NWR (Michael Stroeh); 28-29 May (2/1) Loosahatchie Bar, Shelby Co (JRW). **Marbled Godwit**: 1 May (1) EARTH Complex (DDP, VBR, TOS). **Ruddy Turnstone**: 24 -25 May (3) Chickasaw NWR (DDP, JRW, David Brown). **Sanderling**: 14 May (1) EARTH Complex (CHB, LVZ, BHW). **Baird's Sandpiper**: 26 Mar (1) Dyer Co (MCT, Don Manning), ers. **Pectoral Sandpiper**: 29 May (1) Dyer Co (JAZ, LVZ), lrs. **Dunlin**: 6 Mar (7) Lauderdale WMA, Lauderdale Co (JRW), ers; 24 May (110) Chickasaw NWR (DDP), max; 28 May (1) EARTH Complex (JRW) & (1) White Lake WMA (WGC, BL, KCL), lrs. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 30 Apr (102) White Lake WMA (WGC), max. **Long-billed Dowitcher**: 6 Mar (7) Lauderdale WMA, Lauderdale Co (JRW), ers; 20 Apr (50) White Lake WMA (WGC), max. **Franklin's Gull**: 7 Apr (3) Lake Co (MAG). **Ring-billed Gull**: 29 May (4) Lake Co (JAZ, LVZ), lrs. **THAYER'S GULL**: 6 Mar (1)

Lake Co (JRW), holdover from last period. **ICELAND GULL**: 6 Mar (2) Lake Co (JRW), holdovers from last period. **Lesser Black-backed Gull**: 5 Mar (1) Lake Co (JRW).

Dove - Wren: **Eurasian Collared-Dove**: 13 Mar (172) Ensley (CHB, VBR, LVZ), max; 19 Mar (2) Shelby Farms (VH), first for park; 24 May (1) Dyer Co (JAZ, LVZ), Co first; 2 May (1) Henry Co (Benny Thatcher), Co first. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: 31 Mar (1) Shelby Co (Kathie Holder), ers. **Alder Flycatcher**: 18-23 May (1) Shelby Farms (WRP, CHB, BHW, VBR); 23 May (1) Ensley (MCT). **Willow Flycatcher**: 14 May (1) Lake Co (JRW); 23 May (1) Ensley (MCT). **Western Kingbird**: 1/4 May (1/2) Lake Co (WGC, KCL); 5-28 May (1-3, nest) Ensley (JRW et al.). **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 21-28 May (2, nest) President's Island, Shelby Co (JRW, MCT, LVZ). **Bell's Vireo**: 6-29 May (1) Black Bayou (TJW, Nancy Moore et al.). **Blue-headed Vireo**: 3 Mar (1) Bartlett, Shelby Co (Robert Ilardi), ers; 14 May (1) Shelby Farms (Martha Waldron), lrs. **Philadelphia Vireo**: 21 May (2) Ensley (JRW), lrs. **Fish Crow**: 28 Mar (9) Pickwick SP, Hardin Co (Damien Simbeck). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**: 13 Mar (1) Germantown (WRP), ers. **Cliff Swallow**: 15 May (200) Dyer Co (WGC, BL, KCL). **Barn Swallow**: 13 Mar (1) Memphis (Sue Ferguson), ers. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: 17 Mar (1) Lichterman Park, Memphis (WRP); 31 Mar - 20 Apr (1) Germantown (WRP), lrs. **House Wren**: 17 May (6) Obion Co (MAG). **Sedge Wren**: 29 Apr / 1 May (2) Shelby Farms (CHB, LVZ, TOS). **Marsh Wren**: 24 Mar (1) Chickasaw NWR (JAZ, LVZ); 24 Apr/1 May (1) Shelby Farms (WRP, TOS).

Warbler - Siskin: **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 1-28 Mar (1) Germantown (WRP); 9 Apr (1) Shelby Forest (WRP). **Yellow Warbler**: 7 Apr (1) Gibson Co (MAG), ers. **Cape May Warbler**: 11 May (1) Shelby Forest (DDP). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 30 Mar (1) Hatchie NWR, Haywood Co (CHB, BHW), ers. **Cerulean Warbler**: 14 May (16) Shelby Forest (Memphis Chapter of TOS), max. **Worm-eating Warbler**: 3 Apr (1) Ensley (LVZ), ers. **Swainson's Warbler**: 9 Apr (1) Shelby Forest (WRP), ers; 29 Apr (2) Shelby Farms (CHB, LVZ). **Ovenbird**: 22 May (1) Germantown (WRP), lrs. **Mourning Warbler**: 6 May (1) Obion Co (TJW). **Canada Warbler**: 22 May (1) Tipton Co (DDP). **Summer Tanager**: present at feeding station from Feb into Apr (1 female) Tipton Co (DDP). **Bachman's Sparrow**: 30 May (1) Hardin Co (JRW). **Lark Sparrow**: 21 Apr (1) Ensley (CHB, LVZ); 18 May (1) Henry Co (MCT). **Savannah Sparrow**: 24 May (1) Chickasaw NWR (David Brown, DDP), lrs. **LeConte's Sparrow**: 30 Apr (1) Shiloh NP, Hardin Co (BHS). **White-throated Sparrow**: 14 May (3) Shelby Farms (Martha Waldron), lrs. **Harris's Sparrow**: 18 Mar - 3 May (1) Shelby Farms (VH, VBR, WRP, m.ob.). **Painted Bunting**: 11 Apr (1) Ensley (JRW, MCT et al.), ers; 1-18 May (1-2) Shelby Farms (TOS, m.ob.). **Western Meadowlark**: 24 Mar (1) Chickasaw NWR (JAZ, LVZ). **Yellow-headed Blackbird**: 30 Apr - 3 May (1 male) Shelby Farms (Dan & Laurie Mooney, TOS, m.ob.). **Baltimore Oriole**: 9 Apr (1) Ensley (JRW), ers; 14 May (100) Lake Co (JRW), max. **Purple Finch**: 9 Apr (9) Henry Co (MCT), lrs. **Pine Siskin**: 1 Mar (90) Collierville, Shelby Co (Kathie Holder); 19 Apr (1) Germantown (WRP); 25 Apr (1) Shelby Forest (VH).

Locations: Black Bayou - in Lake Co; Chickasaw NWR - in Lauderdale Co; EARTH Complex - in Shelby Co; Ensley - in Shelby Co; Germantown - in Shelby Co; Shelby Farms/Forest - in Shelby Co; White Lake WMA - in Dyer Co.

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HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION — As is often the case, the three months of spring in the Nashville area produced a variety of weather. Of the three months, March was the coolest, being 2.5 degrees below average. April and May were near normal, one degree above and one degree below average, respectively. Although temperatures did not range far from their norms, precipitation was a different story. Rainfall during March was about an inch below normal, but April was very wet with nearly seven inches of rain, almost 60% above average. This was balanced by the following month, which with barely over one inch of precipitation was one of the driest Mays on record.

New early arrival dates were established for four species at Nashville and for three species in Putnam County.

Goose - Falcon: **Snow Goose**: 22 May (1) Jackson Co (SJS, WAW), late. **BRANT**: 7 May (1) near Bon Air, White Co (SJS - photo, DAD, JEM). **Gadwall**: 10 Apr (1) Cane Cr. Park (WAW), lrs. **Greater Scaup**: 20 Mar (2) Cane Cr. Park (SJS, WAW), third Co record. **Long-tailed Duck**: 20 Mar (2) Cordell Hull Reservoir, Smith Co (SJS, WAW). **Hooded Merganser**: 27 Apr (2 females with broods of 8 + 2 yg) Sparta, White Co (DAD). **Red-breasted Merganser**: 18 May (1) Cane Cr. Park (SJS), lrs. **PACIFIC LOON**: 9 Mar (1) Center Hill L (SJS). **Horned Grebe**: 26 Mar (430+) Center Hill L (SJS), max. **American Bittern**: 19 Apr (1) Heritage Marsh (SJS, DAD). **Great Egret**: 7 May (pair at nest) Drake's Cr. on Old Hickory L, Sumner Co (CAS, Ken Oeser). **Snowy Egret**: 27 Mar (1) Percy-Priest L, Rutherford Co (TJW), early; 12 May (1) Franklin Co (JLI). **Green Heron**: 5 Apr (1) Radnor L (FCF), ers. **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 27 Mar (1) Murfreesboro (TJW), ers. **Osprey**: 20 Mar (2 at nests) Jackson Co (SJS, WAW), ers. **Northern Harrier**: 4 May (1) White Co (SJS, Edmund LeGrand), lrs. **Broad-winged Hawk**: 4 Apr (3) Cheatham Co (PDC) & (1) Putnam Co (Ginger Ensor), ers. **Golden Eagle**: 10 Mar (1) Marshall Co (John Sanders). **Merlin**: 2 Mar (1) Putnam Co (BHS). **Peregrine Falcon**: 3-4 Mar, 19 May (1 ad) downtown Nashville (Sabin Thompson/SM); 17 Apr (1 ad) Warren Co (Gregg Garrison).

Rail - Hummingbird: **Sora**: 8 Apr/7 May (2/1) Heritage Marsh (SJS, DAD). **WHOOPING CRANE**: 7 Mar (1 im) Jackson Co (NSL), one of few records of unassisted migrant from reintroduction program. **Semipalmated Plover**: 12 May (22) Gallatin Steam Plant, Sumner Co (AJT), max. **Greater Yellowlegs**: 13 Mar (1) DeKalb Co (Zack & Judy Fuson), ers. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 25 Mar (5) White Co (DAD), ers. **Solitary Sandpiper**: 28 Mar (1) White Co (DAD), ers. **Spotted Sandpiper**: 8 Apr (1) Cane Cr. Park (SJS), new early date for Co. **Least Sandpiper**: 12 May (89) Gallatin Steam Plant, Sumner Co (AJT), max. **Stilt Sandpiper**: 7 May

(1) White Co (SJS, DAD). **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 14 May (3) Putnam Co (SJS, CDW, NSL). **Laughing Gull**: 29 Apr (1) Percy-Priest L, Rutherford Co (TJW). **Caspian Tern**: 22 Apr (7) Old Hickory L, Davidson & Sumner Cos (PDC). **Black Tern**: 14 May (1) Williamson Co (Richard Connors). **Eurasian Collared-Dove**: 12 Mar (6) Overton Co (WAW, SJS); 7 May (4) Sparta, White Co (BHS), first Co record; 14 May (1) Cookeville (Kenneth Morgan). **Whip-poor-will**: 4 Apr (1) Jackson Co (NSL), ers. **Chuck-will's-widow**: 14 Apr (1) Jackson Co (NSL), ers. **Chimney Swift**: 26 Mar (2) Davidson Co (PDC), ers. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: 31 Mar (1) DeKalb Co (Judy Fuson), ers.

Flycatcher - Pipit: **Eastern Wood-Pewee**: 22 Apr (1) DeKalb Co (CDW), ers. **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: 23 May (1) Radnor L (FCF). **Acadian Flycatcher**: 30 Apr (1) Radnor L (PDC, MAZ), ers. **Alder Flycatcher**: 19 May (1 singing) Shelby Bottoms (PDC); 20/23 May (1) Cane Cr. Park (SJS), second Co record. **Willow Flycatcher**: 22 May (1) Roaring R. Recreation Area, Jackson Co (SJS, WAW). **Least Flycatcher**: 29 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers; 23 May (1) Cane Cr. Park (SJS), new late date for Co. **Great Crested Flycatcher**: 12 Apr (1) Putnam Co (BHS), ers. **Eastern Kingbird**: 3 Apr (1) Center Hill L (CDW), ers. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**: 29 Apr (1) Murfreesboro (Bob English). **White-eyed Vireo**: 7 Apr (1) Putnam Co (MPO), ers. **Blue-headed Vireo**: 25 Mar (2) Radnor L (JMa, RLa), new early arrival date for Nashville. **Yellow-throated Vireo**: 9 Apr (1 each) Dickson Co/Nashville/Jackson Co (PDC, FCF, MAZ/CAS/Michael Hawkins), ers. **Warbling Vireo**: 11 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers. **Philadelphia Vireo**: 30 Apr (1) Nashville (CAS), ers. **Red-eyed Vireo**: 25 Mar (1) Radnor L (JMa, RLa), new early arrival date for Nashville. **Tree Swallow**: 3 Mar (2) Shelby Bottoms (PDC), new early arrival date for Nashville. **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**: 14 Mar (1/3) Shelby Park/Radnor L (PDC/JKS), ties early arrival date for Nashville. **Cliff Swallow**: 26 Mar (2) Smith Co (SJS), ers. **Barn Swallow**: 14 Mar (1) Nashville (Amy Potter), ers. **Bewick's Wren**: 6 Mar (2) Sumner Co (Jim Hiett); 1 May (1) Rutherford Co (TJW). **Sedge Wren**: 19 Apr (2) Heritage Marsh (SJS, DAD), possibly overwintered. **Marsh Wren**: 19 Apr (1) Heritage Marsh (SJS, DAD). **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**: 25 Mar (1) Radnor L (JMa, RLa), ers. **Gray-cheeked Thrush**: 23 Apr (1) Beaman Park (Amy Potter), ers. **Swainson's Thrush**: 21 Apr (1) Nashville (JKS), ers. **Hermit Thrush**: 3 May (1) Shelby Park (PDC, JKS), lrs. **American Pipit**: 21 Mar (43) Warren Co (Susan McWhirter).

Warblers: **Blue-winged Warbler**: 9 Apr (1) Beaman Park (Mike Smith), ers. **"Brewster's" Warbler**: 25 Apr (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC). **Golden-winged Warbler**: 30 Apr (1) Shelby Park (Mike Smith), ers. **Tennessee Warbler**: 12 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers. **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 4 Mar (1) Shelby Park (PDC); 25 Mar/24 Apr (2-3/2) Radnor L (JMa, RLa/PDC, FCF, MAZ). **Nashville Warbler**: 13 Apr (1) Radnor L (Elizabeth O'Connor, Jan Alexander, NTOS), ers. **Northern Parula**: 29 Mar (2) Radnor L (PDC, FCF), ers. **Yellow Warbler**: 12 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers. **Chestnut-sided Warbler**: 27 Apr (1) Radnor L (JMa), ers. **Magnolia Warbler**: 12 Apr (1) Radnor L (SM), ers. **Cape May Warbler**: 21 Apr (1) Nashville (JKS), ers. **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 7 May (1) Nashville (PDC, MAZ). **Black-throated Green Warbler**: 25 Mar (1) Radnor L (JMa, RLa), ers. **Blackburnian**

Warbler: 12 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers. **Yellow-throated Warbler**: 4 Apr (1) Narrows of the Harpeth SP (PDC), ers. **Prairie Warbler**: 10 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: 29 Apr (1) Shelby Park (PDC), ers. **Blackpoll Warbler**: 24 Apr (1) Radnor L (PDC, FCF, MAZ), ers. **Cerulean Warbler**: 4 Apr (1) Narrows of the Harpeth SP (PDC), ers; 19 May (42) w. Putnam Co (SJS, WAW), max. **Black-and-white Warbler**: 28 Mar (1) Perry Co (Anna Varney), ers. **American Redstart**: 13 Apr (1) Putnam Co (SJS), ers. **Prothonotary Warbler**: 7 Apr (3) Maury Co (Tommy Edwards), ers. **Worm-eating Warbler**: 13 Apr (1) Radnor L (PDC, FCF), ers. **Swainson's Warbler**: 7-11 May (1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC, Mark Hackney, MAZ, TJW), few Nashville area records; 19 May (1) w. Putnam Co (SJS, WAW). **Northern Waterthrush**: 24 Apr (1) Putnam Co (BHS), ers. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: 20 Mar (1) Beaman Park (Daniel Moss), ers. **Kentucky Warbler**: 13 Apr (1) Radnor L (PDC, FCF), ers. **Connecticut Warbler**: 10 May (1) Murfreesboro (TJW); 14 May (1) Radnor L (TJW); 16/20 May (2/1) Shelby Bottoms (PDC). **Mourning Warbler**: 18/23/26 May (2/2/1) Radnor L (PDC, FCF, JKS, SM). **Common Yellowthroat**: 4 Apr (1) Narrows of the Harpeth SP (PDC), ers. **Hooded Warbler**: 12 Apr (1) Radnor L (SM), ers. **Wilson's Warbler**: 4 May (1) Radnor L (PDC, JKS, NTOS). **Canada Warbler**: 19 Apr (1) Putnam Co (MPO); 27 May (1) Cookeville (SJS); new early & late spring dates for Co. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: 22 Apr (1) Putnam Co (MPO), ers.

Tanager - Siskin: **Summer Tanager**: 7 Apr (1) Maury Co (Tommy Edwards), ers. **Scarlet Tanager**: 4 Apr (1) Nashville (Jan Alexander), new early arrival date for Nashville. **Lark Sparrow**: 21 Apr (2) Bedford Co (Melissa Turrentine); 1 May (pair) Rutherford Co (TJW). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: 10 Apr (1) White Co Airport (Susan Ford), ers; 11 Apr (1) Putnam Co (Susan Ford), new early arrival date for Co; 28 May (7) Warren Co (Susan McWhirter). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 20 May (1) Putnam Co (SJS), new late departure date for Co. **White-throated Sparrow**: 26 May (1) Putnam Co (MPO), lrs. **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 19 Apr (1) DeKalb Co (Tommy & Virginia Curtis), ers. **Blue Grosbeak**: 14 Apr (1) Franklin Co (JLI), ers. **Dickcissel**: 22 May (1) Jackson Co (SJS, WAW). **Orchard Oriole**: 19 Apr (1) Nashville (MAZ), ers. **Purple Finch**: 5 May (1) Putnam Co (SJS, BHS), lrs. **Pine Siskin**: 12 Mar (1) Nashville (Ed Gleaves); 24 May (1) DeKalb Co (Tommy & Virginia Curtis), lrs.

Locations: Beaman Park - in Davidson Co; Cane Cr. Park - in Putnam Co; Center Hill L - in DeKalb Co; Heritage Marsh - in White Co; Narrows of the Harpeth SP - in Cheatham Co; Radnor L - in Davidson Co; Shelby Park & Bottoms - in Davidson Co.

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CUMBERLAND PLATEAU/RIDGE & VALLEY REGION — Temperatures considerably milder than normal occurred during late March and the first three weeks of April. As a result, tree leaf-out was a bit earlier than average. A cold snap on 23-24 April brought a light snowfall (1-2 in.) to northeast Tennessee and

ushered in two weeks of "dogwood winter". The passage of a cold front precipitated a nice fallout of migrants on 29 April through 1 May from Knoxville to the Tri-cities area. The overall migration was about average in Chattanooga.

The best finds of the season were a Western Kingbird and a Purple Gallinule. Other notables included Ross's Goose, American White Pelican, Laughing Gull, Alder Flycatcher, and Brewer's Blackbird. Several unusual shorebirds were seen. Fish Crows and Common Ravens appeared in different ends of the region. Significant breeding reports included Double-crested Cormorant, Least Bittern, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and Virginia Rail.

Goose - Heron: **Ross's Goose**: 5 Mar (2) Greene Co (DHM), continuation from last season. **Ring-necked Duck**: 13 May (1) Kingston Steam Plant (AJT), lrs. **Greater Scaup**: 14 Mar (1) Greene Co (DHM); 24 Mar (1) Bristol (JWC, CJO). **Surf Scoter**: 22 Mar (1 male) Bristol (Kevin Elam, Sam Cross, m.ob.); 5 Apr (1 male) Austin Springs, Washington Co (JWC, CJO, m.ob.). **American White Pelican**: 21-27 Mar (1) Fort Loudoun L., Knox Co portion (Fred Symonds, Marcia Davis). **Double-crested Cormorant**: 20 Apr (12 on nests) adjacent to Kingston Steam Plant on Clinch R., Roane Co (Wes James), new nesting site; 8 May (2 nests) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG). **American Bittern**: 20 Apr (3) Brainerd Levee (KAC); 23 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM); 29 Apr (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP). **Least Bittern**: separate nests found 19 Apr (5 eggs), 28 Apr (5 eggs), 4 May (4 eggs), 17 May (4 eggs) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP). **Great Blue Heron**: 28 Mar (8 nests) John Sevier L. (SHu), new site; 3 Apr (6 nests) Nolichucky R., Greene Co (DHM), new site; 2 May (2 nests) Kingsport (RLK), new site; 8 May (5 nests) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG); recent colonies at Fort Henry Dam (13+ nests) in Sullivan Co & Conklin (14+ nests) in Washington Co still active (DAH, RLK); breeding by this species continues to expand in northeast Tenn. **Great Egret**: 8 May (15) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG), max. **Little Blue Heron**: 22-23 Apr (1) Eagle Bend (Steve & Gail Clendenen et al.); 1 May (1 ad) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG). **Cattle Egret**: 30 Apr/6 May (1) Eagle Bend (AJT/Steve & Gail Clendenen); 8 May (3) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG); 10 May (2) John Sevier L. (SHu); 14/15 May (2/5) Hamilton Co (DRJ, RJH/KAC, Judy Newsome). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 27 Mar thru season (up to 9 nesting pairs) Kingsport greenbelt (RLK, DAH, m.ob.); 27 May (pair at nest) Maryville, Blount Co (CMM, Tracey Muise).

Osprey - Crane: **Osprey**: 13 Mar (3) upper Douglas L., Cocke Co (DHM), ers. **Bald Eagle**: early Apr (nest with 2 yg) upper Douglas L., Cocke Co (MBS, LJG); 23 May (2 yg fledged from nest) Holston Army Ammunition Plant, Hawkins Co (Bruce Cole fide Bill Grigsby), a new nesting site . **Red-shouldered Hawk**: thru season (pair at nest) Kingsport greenbelt (Bill Grigsby, RLK, m.ob.), second year at site; 6 Mar (2) Holston R., Hawkins Co (DHM); 21 May (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Merlin**: 8 Mar (1) Knox Co (KDE); 3 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM); 14 May (1) Hamilton Co (Danny Gaddy), late. **Peregrine Falcon**: pair nested again on trestle below Chickamauga Dam, Hamilton Co, with 2 yg seen being fed on 29 Apr but only 1 fledged (fide KAC). **Virginia Rail**: thru period, with first of 4 nests found on 17 Apr, Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP); 4 Apr (1) Phipps Bend, Hawkins Co (RLK); 23

Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM); 23 Apr (1) Kyker Bottoms, Blount Co (CMM). **Sora**: 10 Apr (6) Standifer Gap Marsh (KAC, CDB,); 23 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM); 30 Apr (2) Austin Springs, Washington Co (RLK); 30 Apr (2) Fall Cr. Falls SP, Van Buren Co (SJS, DAD). **Purple Gallinule**: 10 Apr (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (KAC, CDB, DRJ et al.). **Sandhill Crane**: 13 Mar (20) Greene Co (DAH, Diane Draper); 4 Apr (1) Cove Lake SP, Campbell Co (Nell Moore); both east of usual corridor.

Plover - Woodpecker: **Black-bellied Plover**: 26-28 May (1) Limestone (RBi, m.ob.). **American Golden-Plover**: 26-28 Mar (1) Greene Co (DAH, RBi, DHM). **Willet**: 3 May (23) Brainerd Levee KAC). **Upland Sandpiper**: 21 Apr (1) Eagle Bend (Ron Hoff, Dollyann Myers). **Semipalmated Sandpiper**: 20 May (45) Eagle Bend (AJT), max. **White-rumped Sandpiper**: 1 May (1) Brainerd Levee (DRJ, CDB et al.); 13/25 May (4/1) Kingston Steam Plant (AJT); 28 May (2) Morgan Co (SJS, JEM); 29 May (1) Limestone (DAH, Diane Draper). **Pectoral Sandpiper**: 25 Apr (107) Brainerd Levee (KAC), max. **Dunlin**: 8/11 Apr (1) Rankin Bottoms (AJT). **Stilt Sandpiper**: 20 Mar (1) Brainerd Levee (KAC), quite early. **Short-billed Dowitcher**: 10/11 Apr (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG/AJT); 30 Apr (1) Limestone (RLK). **American Woodcock**: 21 Mar (2) Phipps Bend, Hawkins Co (JWC, DAH); 14 Apr (1 ad, 1 flightless yg) Bristol (Kevin Elam); 23 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Laughing Gull**: 19 Apr (1) Tennessee R., Hamilton Co (KAC). **Caspian Tern**: 2 Apr (1) Fort Loudoun L., Blount Co portion (Tom Howe); 1 May (1) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG). **Forster's Tern**: 11 Apr (4) Fort Loudoun L., Knox Co portion (Susan Hoyle); 18 Apr (1) Rankin Bottoms (DAH); 10 May (5) John Sevier L. (SHu); 14/15 May (1/15) Chickamauga L., Hamilton Co (RJH, DRJ/KAC, Judy Newsome). **Eurasian Collared-Dove**: 3 Apr (1) Blount Co (KDE); 23 Apr (5+) Knox Co (KDE); thru season (1-5) Greene Co (DHM). **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 1 May (1) Knoxville (KTOS); 6 May (1) Johnson City (AJT, RBi, Larry McDaniel); 8 May (1) Bradley Co (Marty Paige). **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**: 18 Apr (1) Hamilton Co (David Aborn), ers. **Rufous Hummingbird**: 24 Mar (1) Hamilton Co (Dan Williams), lrs of wintering bird. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: 14 May (2) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG, DHM).

Flycatcher - Thrush: **Alder Flycatcher**: 16 May (1 heard) Cumberland Co (JEM). **Willow Flycatcher**: 13/25 May (3) Kingston Steam Plant (AJT); 30 May (2, nest building) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP), near last year's site. **Least Flycatcher**: 28 May (1) Frozen Head (SJS, JEM), possible breeder. **WESTERN KINGBIRD**: 1 May (1) Loudon Co (Janet McKnight). **Loggerhead Shrike**: 9/30 Apr (pair + 1 at separate sites) Limestone (RLK); 23 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM). **White-eyed Vireo**: 11 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM), ers. **Warbling Vireo**: 14 May (7) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG, DHM), max. **Philadelphia Vireo**: 14 May (1) Hamilton Co (KAC). **Fish Crow**: 18 Mar (1) Knox Co (Susan Hoyle), by call; 18 Apr/14 May (1) Hamilton Co (KAC/DRJ, RJH). **Common Raven**: 3 Apr (2) Kingsport (John Moyle); 9 Apr (2) quarry at town of Watauga, Carter Co (RLK); 16 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**: 5 Mar (1) Greene Co (DHM), ers. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: 10 May (1) Greeneville (DHM), lrs. **Brown-headed Nuthatch**: 10 Apr (1) Lenoir City Park, Loudon Co (David Trently, Janet McKnight). **Sedge Wren**: 29 Mar (1) Greene

Co (Ben Britton); 29 Apr (1) Standifer Gap Marsh (DEP); 13-18 May (1-3) Cumberland Co (JEM). **Marsh Wren**: reported from Hamilton, Cumberland, Greene, & Washington Cos. **Veery**: 28 May (4) Frozen Head (SJS, JEM), likely breeders. **Swainson's Thrush**: 29 May (1) Hamilton Co (KAC), lrs. **Hermit Thrush**: 2 May (1) Sullivan Co (RLK), lrs.

Warblers: **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 20 Apr (1) Greene Co (DHM). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 7 May (1) Hamilton Co (KAC), scarce migrant; 28 May (3) Frozen Head (SJS, JEM), likely breeders. **Blackburnian Warbler**: 28 May (8) Frozen Head (SJS, JEM), likely breeders; 2 Jun (1) Bradley Co (Laura Lewis), late migrant. **Palm Warbler**: 26 Mar (2) Greene Co (DAH, RBi). **Cerulean Warbler**: 8 / 10 Apr (1) separate Hamilton Co sites (KAC), ers; 13 Apr (1) Royal Blue WMA, Campbell Co (Lesley Bulluck), ers there. **Prothonotary Warbler**: 9 Apr (4) Greene Co (DHM), ers; 8 May (2) John Sevier L (SHu); 14 May (38) Rankin Bottoms (MBS, LJG, DHM et al.), remarkable number. **Swainson's Warbler**: 17 Apr (1) Obed Wild & Scenic R., Morgan Co (BHS), ers at breeding site; 8 May (1) Cove Lake SP, Campbell Co (KTOS). **Connecticut Warbler**: 12/14 May (1) Maryville, Blount Co (Jean Alexander / Warren Bielenberg); 16 May (1) Craven's House, Hamilton Co (KAC). **Mourning Warbler**: 15 May (1) Campbell Co (Nell Moore); 25 May (1) Craven's House, Hamilton Co (KAC). **Wilson's Warbler**: 12 May (1) Greene Co (DAH); 22 May (2) Hamilton Co (KAC, DRJ).

Tanager - Siskin: **Scarlet Tanager**: 9 Apr (1) Sequatchie Co (CDB), ers. **Vesper Sparrow**: 13 May (1) Kingston Steam Plant (AJT), lrs. **Grasshopper Sparrow**: 12 Apr (3) Knox Co (Jim Giocomo), ers. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 9 May (2) Greene Co (DAH). **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**: 28 May (1) Frozen Head (SJS, JEM), likely breeder. **Dickcissel**: 9 May thru season (7 + 3 at two sites) Limestone (RBi, FJA, m.ob.); 20-25 May (2-4) Greene Co (DHM). **Brewer's Blackbird**: 19 Mar - 2 Apr (1-5) Greene Co (DHM). **Baltimore Oriole**: 19 Mar (1) Sullivan Co (FRC), very early, possibly overwintered nearby. **Pine Siskin**: 25 Mar (2) Hamilton Co (DEP); 29 Apr - 1 May (8) Knoxville (KDE); 5 May (7) Sewannee, Franklin Co (JLI).

Locations: Brainerd Levee - in Hamilton Co; Eagle Bend - fish hatchery in Anderson Co; Frozen Head - State Natural Area in Morgan Co; John Sevier L - in Hawkins Co; Kingston Steam Plant - in Roane Co; Limestone - in Washington Co; Rankin Bottoms - in Cocke Co; Standifer Gap Marsh - in Hamilton Co.

Addenda: Omitted from the 2004-2005 Winter Season — **Northern Harrier**: 5 Feb (16 at 1 site) Greene Co (DHM). **Palm Warbler**: 11 Dec - 31 Jan (singles intermittently at 4 sites) Greene Co (DHM); 13 Dec (1) Cocke Co (DHM); 13 Feb (1) Jefferson Co (DHM). **Brewer's Blackbird**: 13 Feb (30+) Greene Co (DHM).

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EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION — Daily temperatures were cooler than normal in March and May, with April being near normal. Precipitation was slightly below normal for the period.

Duck - Falcon: **Greater Scaup**: 19 Mar (5) S. Holston L (FRC). **Hooded Merganser**: 23 May (1 female) Watauga R., Carter Co (DHM). **Common Merganser**: 23 Mar (1 male) S. Holston L. (RLK). **Eared Grebe**: 25 Mar (8) S. Holston L. (FRC), lrs. **Double-crested Cormorant**: 10 Apr (77) S. Holston L. (DHM, Linda Northrop), max. **American Bittern**: 30 Apr (1) Unicoi Co (JHM et al.). **Great Blue Heron**: 30 Apr (1 carrying stick) Erwin, Unicoi Co (JHM), possily breeding? **Cattle Egret**: 9 May (3) Stoney Cr., Carter Co (fide BKS). **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**: 30 Mar thru season (4+ nests at two sites) Elizabethton (RLK, DAH, m.ob.); 8 May (1) Unicoi Co (BKS). **Osprey**: 25 Mar (1) S. Holston L. (FRC), ers. **Red-shouldered Hawk**: 5 Apr (1 im) Shady Valley (RLK); 10 Apr thru season (1-2) Elizabethton (DAH, m.ob.). **Peregrine Falcon**: 30 Apr (1) Foothills Parkway, Blount Co (CMM).

Rail - Sapsucker: **Virginia Rail**: 5 Apr/31 May (2) Quarry Bog (RLK/JWC, CJO). **Sora**: 30 Apr (2) Quarry Bog (JWC, DAH); 2 May (1 - caught in small mammal live-trap) Strawberry Mtn., Carter Co (Pete Wyatt). **American Coot**: 30 May (1) Shady Valley (TSM, RBi). **Solitary Sandpiper**: 3 May (42) Shady Valley (JWC), max. **Bonaparte's Gull**: 8 Apr (240+) S. Holston L. (RLK), max. **Caspian Tern**: 10-16 Apr (1-2) S. Holston L. (DHM, JWC et al.); 30 Apr (6) Watauga L., Carter Co (TSM, Gary Wallace et al.). **Common Tern**: 30 Apr (2) S. Holston L. (JWC, DAH). **Forster's Tern**: 11 Apr (2) S. Holston L. (JWC et al.). **Mourning Dove**: 15 Apr (1) Carver's Gap on Roan Mtn. (RLK), ers at high elevation. **Black-billed Cuckoo**: 30 Apr (1) Holston Valley, Sullivan Co (Richard Lewis); 3 May (1) Unicoi Co (FJA). **Northern Saw-whet Owl**: 30 Apr (1) Unaka Mtn., Unicoi Co (JHM). **Whip-poor-will**: 11 Apr (1) Wilbur L. (Brookie & Jean Potter), ers. **Red-headed Woodpecker**: 30 Apr (1) Elizabethton (BKS); 5 May (1) Holston Valley, Sullivan Co (Richard Lewis). **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**: 8/22 May (2/1) separate sites at Roan Mtn. SP, Carter Co (DAH et al.), likely breeders.

Flycatcher - Swallow: **Alder Flycatcher**: 23 May (2) Carver's Gap on Roan Mtn (DHM), ers. **Willow Flycatcher**: 23 May (4) Hampton Cr. Cove, Carter Co (DHM); 24 May (4+) Orchard Bog (TSM). **Least Flycatcher**: 3 May (6+) Roan Mtn (RLK), ers; 22 May (1+1) Orchard Bog/ Quarry Bog (JWC). **Eastern Kingbird**: 11 Apr (1) Elizabethton (RLK), ers. **White-eyed Vireo**: 9 Apr (1) Carter Co (TSM, RBi), ers. **Blue-headed Vireo**: 13 Mar (1) Foothills WMA, Blount Co (Tracey Muise), ers. **Red-eyed Vireo**: 16 Apr (1) Unicoi Co (RLK), ers. **Bank Swallow**: 27 Apr (1) Cades Cove, Great Smoky Mtns. NP (CMM). **Cliff Swallow**: 10/22 May (3 nests/1 bird) Hwy 421 bridge in Shady Valley (JWC). **Barn Swallow**: 19 Mar (1) S. Holston L. (FRC), ers.

Warbler - Siskin: **Black-and-white Warbler**: 30 Mar (1) Wilbur L. (RLK), ers. **American Redstart**: 7 Apr (1) Great Smoky Mtns. NP (CMM), ers. **Swainson's Warbler**: 28-30 Apr (1) Buffalo Mtn., Washington Co (RLK et al.); 30 Apr (6) Shady Valley (JWC, DAH); 22 May (1) Viking Mtn. Rd., Greene Co (DHM). **Ovenbird**: 7 Apr (1) Unicoi Co (FJA), ers. **Louisiana Waterthrush**: 26 Mar (3) Buffalo Mtn., Washington Co (RLK), ers. **Kentucky Warbler**: 7 Apr (1) Great Smoky Mtns. NP (CMM), ers. **Mourning Warbler**: 22 May (1) Orchard Bog (JWC). **Common Yellowthroat**: 17 Apr (1) Shady Valley (JWC), ers. **Hooded Warbler**: 11 Apr (1)

Wilbur L. (RLK), ers. **Savannah Sparrow**: 24/29 May (2/1) Orchard Bog (TSM), likely breeders. **Pine Siskin**: 4 - 23 Mar (2-4) Hampton, Carter Co (BKS); thru 2 May (2) Erwin, Unicoi Co (JHM); 3 May (4) Roan Mtn (RLK).

Locations: Orchard Bog & Quarry Bog - in Shady Valley, Johnson Co; Roan Mtn - in Carter Co; Shady Valley - in Johnson Co; S. Holston L. - in Sullivan Co; Wilbur L. - in Carter Co.

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